

## **COUNCIL – 6TH NOVEMBER 2017**

### **Report of the Monitoring Officer**

#### **Part A**

#### **ITEM 7.3 APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED PARISH MEMBERS OF THE MEMBER CONDUCT COMMITTEE**

##### Purpose of Report

To enable the Council to make appointments of co-opted parish members of the Member Conduct Committee to fill two vacancies.

##### Recommendation

That Councillor Cathy Duffy, a member of East Goscote Parish Council, and Councillor Dennis Marchant, a member of Quorn Parish Council, be appointed as non-voting co-opted parish members of the Member Conduct Committee until 29th June 2019 or until they cease to be a parish/town councillor, whichever is the sooner.

##### Reason

To fill two vacancies on the Committee which provide the opportunity for parish/town councillors to contribute to the work of the Committee.

##### Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Localism Act 2011 introduced a new system for dealing with the conduct of elected and co-opted members of local authorities. As a result, the Council adopted its own new arrangements on 25th June 2012 which came into force on 1st July 2012. In order to address the concerns of parish and town councils about the loss of representation under the system set out in the Localism Act, the Council resolved to co-opt three non-voting parish members to the new Member Conduct Committee which was established (minute 17.3 2012/13 refers). There are currently two parish member vacancies on the Committee.

##### Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

Previous appointments of parish members to the Committee have been made for a period until just after the next parish and town council elections in 2019. This follows the pattern established for the previous Standards Committee of four-year terms running in parallel with the election cycle for parish and town councils. It is recommended that the new appointments are made to come to an end at the same time as the current parish member of the Member Conduct Committee.

## Report Implications

### *Financial Implications*

There is an allowance of £248 per annum payable to co-opted parish members. The cost will be met from the existing members' allowances budget.

### *Risk Management*

No specific risks have been identified in connection with this report.

Background Papers: None

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## Part B

### Process for making recommendations for appointment

1. Information about the role of a parish member of the Member Conduct Committee was circulated to all parish and town councils in the Borough. Five initial expressions of interest were received as a result of advertising the role in this way.
2. A panel comprising three members of the Member Conduct Committee, Councillor Gaskell (the Chair), Councillor Tassell (the Vice-chair) and Councillor Bentley, interviewed the three councillors who wished to proceed with the selection process. The panel concluded that Councillor Cathy Duffy and Councillor Dennis Marchant should be recommended for appointment as co-opted parish members of the Committee.

### Information about parish/town councillors recommended for appointment

3. The following parish/town councillors are recommended for appointment as parish members of the Member Conduct Committee:

#### *Councillor Cathy Duffy*

Councillor Duffy has been a member of East Goscote Parish Council since 2015 and currently serves on the Village Hall Management Committee (of which she is the Chair), the Finance Committee and the Staffing Committee. Councillor Duffy has a wide knowledge and experience of local government and parish council matters through her period of service as a Borough Councillor from 2007 to 2015 and her employment as Administrative Assistant to the Parish Clerk at East Goscote Parish Council prior to being elected as a parish councillor.

#### *Councillor Dennis Marchant*

Councillor Marchant became a member of Quorn Parish Council in May 2016 and has undertaken a range of training since then. He is Chair of the Council's Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee and the Planning Scrutiny Committee. Through his work in the aircraft industry, and in particular ensuring the airworthiness of aircraft, Councillor Marchant had experience of the auditing and monitoring of aircraft, aircraft operators, maintenance and production organisations. In addition, while employed by the Civil Aviation Authority he carried out the training of new employees, including on the CAA Code of Conduct, and participated in maintenance related investigations of Mandatory Occurrence Reports and for the UK Confidential Reporting Programme for Aviation.